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Agenda for 10/9/2012

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2012 @ 7:00 PM

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Representatives from CBA Landscape Architects, Ray Dunetz Landscape Architect, Waterfield and Crowe and Justine Neely, Friends of Parallel Park.

Approval of Minutes

A change was made to the Capital Requests for FY 2014. The last sentence should read, Mr. Vitters motioned to approve and Jen Rothenberg seconded.

The minutes were approved with the above correction. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Don Vitters and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

N/A

Florence Playground Design Interviews

Three companies presented their proposals for the Florence Playground Design Project. CBA Landscape Architects, Ray Dunetz Landscape Architect and Waterfield and Crowe.

CBA Landscape Architects – Claire Bachelor introduced the team that would be working on the project. DJ Chagnon will be the project manager and Andrew Pirie will assist in production of the design, presentation and construction with Ms. Bachelor overseeing the project and developing the initial design. Ms. Bachelor gave a brief overview of the company and qualifications.

She talked briefly about the different styles of playground equipment available including seating, landscape, decorative fencing, graphics on blacktop (hopscotch) and water play.

Ms. Bachelor showed some pictures of various playgrounds they have designed.

Ms. Bachelor also discussed the process of the project. If they are selected, they would have a public hearing. After the public

hearing, they would collect data from students then they would come up with some preliminary options. The design would be revamped after a second public hearing. Then they would have a final public hearing. Ms. Bachelor would like to have neighborhood involvement.

Ray Dunetz Landscape Architect – Ray Dunetz gave a brief history of his company and spoke of the many projects they have completed. Mr. Dunetz talked also about neighborhood involvement. In advance of the meeting, he visited the park and met neighbors. He said the majority of children that use the park are school age. There seems to be a big demand for the play area.

Mr. Dunetz talked about some of the issues currently at the playground. The equipment is outdated, it is not handicap accessible, and it has drainage issues in addition to the playground not easily accessible.

Waterfield / Crowe – Craig Miller gave an overview of Waterfield/Crowe. Mr. Miller spoke of their extensive experience with public projects throughout New England. He spoke of community involvement and talked about the project approach briefly. Mr. Miller showed and spoke of the various projects they have completed.

Parallel Playground Fencing Request

Ms. Justine Neely talked to the Commission about the need for a pedestrian gate at Parallel Playground. Many parents are concerned with their children playing on the play structure with it being so close to Route 60. Ms. Neely has collected many signatures and said she could possibly fundraise if needed.

Mr. Connelly will get DPW's input in addition to getting some pricing. Mr. Connelly will follow up with Justine.

Picnic Policy Review

The Commission discussed the following changes to the picnic policy.

- The possible need for another form entitled “Special Event Permit Request”.
- There should be mention of whether or not the event will be open to the public and would there be a fee charged.
- Mr. Connelly will talk with Julianna about the language about selling food at events.
- Police and DPW detail should be incorporated.
- Under the rules and regulations the fine of \$300 in regards to alcohol should be deleted.

Mr. Connelly will draft up a few different versions.

Off Leash Dog Review Review

The Commission discussed what material should be allowed on the bulletin board at the OLRA. There should be no private business ads or business cards on the board. There should be no solicitations. All bulletin board material should be reviewed by the Director of Recreation.

Mr. Connelly received an email back from Captain Flynn stating that there were three citations for “fail to restrain” in the past year.

Capital Improvement Update

Thorndike Field OLRA Update (Stanton Foundation) – Waiting on the timing for re-doing the pathway. Mr. Connelly stated that the Stanton Foundation yearly capital expenditure will provide \$12,500 toward the pathway edging cost.

Poets Corner Master Plan – Mr. Connelly stated that the Arlington Soccer Club is interested in this project and will help fund.

Spy Pond Pathway – Mr. Vitters and Mr. Connelly plan to meet at Spy Pond.

Rink Phase 3 – Completed. Electric zamboni is out to bid.

Rink Sign – Mr. Vitters brought a color chart and the Commission agreed to chose the deep red color as the accent color.

Capital Request for FY 2014 – Mr. Connelly has a meeting scheduled for Friday, October, 12, 2012.

Special Requests

The Menotomy Spooky Walk – The walk will take place on October 27, 2012 from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Approximately 1,000 people are expected. The Commission agreed there should be a police detail and portable restroom. Mr. Connelly will talk to the DPW about putting some extra trash barrels for that night.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Rink and Recreation Update – Budget Updates

Mr. Connelly stated that he had a conversation with the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager, and they agree with creating maintenance funds for the rink and Reservoir Beach. They will bring this to the Finance Committee.

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – N/A

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – N/A

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Toys at Magnolia Playground

Mr. Connelly reached out to the Friends of Magnolia regarding the toys and equipment being all over the park, broken toys, and toys not being cleaned up. There is also erosion under safety surfaces. The Friends feel that the Town has not given them what they have asked for. Mr. Connelly will invite the Friends of Magnolia Park to a meeting to discuss.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation